

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1093

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION to recognize Betty Coley Neal for fifty years of political activism.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is Betty Coley Neal of Gallatin who, over a fifty-year period, has been active in Republican politics at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Betty Neal is a graduate of Gallatin High School and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Library Science at Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia; she holds a teaching certificate in the State of Tennessee, and she received a collegiate professional certificate in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Neal is a housewife, mother, grandmother, librarian, teacher, and realtor and has spent many years volunteering for school- and community-related activities; and

WHEREAS, drawn to politics as a young woman, Betty Neal ignited her enthusiasm for the Grand Old Party as a poll watcher in Clemson, South Carolina, during the Goldwater-Johnson presidential campaign of 1964; and

WHEREAS, in that state, she was a founding member of the Oconee County Republican Women's Club, and she organized and supported women's political clubs for five decades in Virginia, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, several times while living in Virginia, Betty Neal was tapped as a delegate to the State Republican Convention, and she worked tirelessly in concert with United States Senator John Warner; and

WHEREAS, while living in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Neal was a member of local Republican women's clubs and was active in United States Senator Rick Santorum's campaign, as well as in Tom Ridge's gubernatorial campaign; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, her political advocacy has centered in Sumner and Williamson counties. She served twice as president of the Williamson County Republican Women and stood as the Communications Director of the Williamson County Republican Party, and she has served as District Vice President of the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Mrs. Neal offered herself for public office and was successful in her bid for a seat on the Williamson County Commission; she was subsequently appointed to the Williamson County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, Betty Neal is a faithful and committed public servant who knocked on doors, manned telephone banks, organized forums, and has given unselfishly of her time, talents, and resources to uphold and promote the principles of the Republican Party; the culmination of her experiences came when, as a member of the "Caring for America Committee," she was chosen to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Federation of Republican Women in 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, Betty is the wife of Thomas H. Neal, Jr.; they are the parents of three daughters and have been richly blessed with five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, grassroots advocacy and strategic initiatives orchestrated by tried and true Tennesseans such as Betty Coley Neal have made and will keep the Grand Old Party leading with strength and resolve in this great State, and it is fitting that we recognize her service to the public at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Betty Coley Neal for her activism in support of the Republican Party in Tennessee, thank her for her love of liberty and applaud her

many acts of patriotism, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for success in her every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.